INSAT-1C Satellite

506. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the snag that developed in INSAT-1C have been rectified and the satellite has become fully operational, if so, since when; and

(b) what are the telecommunication facilities that are provided to the country by INSAT-1C in addition to those already provided by INSAT-1B?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) In view of the risks involved in attempting corrective measures, it has been decided not to attempt to correct the snag at present, and operate the spacecraft with the available payload service, as it is.

(b) INSAT-1C will provide an additional 2000 two-way telephone circuits over and above the 4000 two-way circuits that INSAT-1B is now providing. Also, additional regional TV networking is planned using INSAT-1C.

W.H.O. Report on Leprosy patients in India

507. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a WHO report India tops amongst the South-East Asian countries in the number of leprosy patients;

(b) if so, what is the approximate number of leprosy cases in India; and

(c) what steps have been taken to fight this disease and to control blindness from leprosy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are about 4 million estimated leprosy cases in the country of which 3.1 million have been detected and brought on record.

(c) National Leprosy Eradication Programme is implemented as 100 per cent Centrally Sponsored Programme. Its strategy includes early detection of leprosy cases, their treatment with a combination of drugs, health education, correction surgery and rehabilitation services.

Over expliotation of ground water

508. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered ways to control over-exploitation of ground water in certain areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Over exploitation of ground water is being indirectly controlled by regulating Institutional credit according to the stage of ground water development in scheme areas which are classified as 'critical', 'semi-critical' or 'safe'.

A 'Model Bill' has also been circulated to the States for enactment of suitable legislation for the control and regulation of ground water development on scientific lines.